

David and Belinda Suissa

7705 Shoal Creek Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78757
(512)-452-3885

August 18, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health & Human Services
Rockville, MD 20857

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: **Docket #98P-0203/CP**

I would like to ask for your support for docket #98P-0203/CP, that would eliminate the practice of forced molting.

Forced molting - prolonged starvation of laying hens for one to two weeks without any food - is cruel and stressful it destroys the birds' immune system and infests them and their eggs with salmonella.

Based on the findings, USDA immunologist Peter S. Holt says farmers should find less stressful ways to produce eggs than starvation rations.

Forced molting should be banned in Texas, and this country as was done in Great Britain in 1987.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to read about our concerns. It would be an honor to receive a response on action you have taken or will be taking in this matter.

Sincerely,



David and Belinda Suissa

DS/bs

cc: The Department of Agriculture
Poultry Grading
903 San Jacinto Boulevard
Austin, Texas 78701

The USDA Service Center
1106 Clayton Lane
Austin, Texas 78723

Department of Agriculture
Office of the Secretary, M. Dunn
Marketing & Regulatory Programs
Washington, D.C. 20250

American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173

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